

CSM gears up to fight cyber attacks

MONITORING ROLE: Agency does forensic work for enforcement authorities

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CYBERSECURITY Malaysia (CSM) has prepared itself for a spike in attacks in cyberspace as the 13th General Election looms.

Its chief executive officer, Dr Amiruddin Abdul Wahab, said the investigating body would also be closely monitoring political blogs for any contravention of laws.

He said upon investigating such cases, CSM would forward its findings to relevant enforcement bodies, such as the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and the police.

This year alone, some 2,500 reports on cyber

attacks had been lodged.

However, CSM does not have enforcement powers to prosecute.

"We are the cyber forensics sleuths. We assist the relevant enforcement agencies in gathering evidence for their cases," said Amiruddin after a cyber-security awareness talk at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak here yesterday.

The highest form of cyber attacks reported is fraud with 1,160 cases and intrusion, 806 cases.

"Let's face it, there are always criminals in the world we live in and the Internet is not immune to that.

"The man behind the machine is the critical factor in cases we investigate, and cyber crim-

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Dr Amiruddin Abdul Wahab

ine is a global issue," said Amiruddin.

He said several years ago, Facebook had requested assistance from CSM to trace a user who was misusing the social network portal.

"Think of us as the 'chemist' for the police. We can do the cyber forensic work needed for cases, and that is what we are good at.

"Cyber criminals are mostly hackers, and to catch these hackers, we need 'responsible hackers'," he added.

Last year, 9,986 cases were reported, out of which 4,326 were for intrusion and 4,001 concerning fraud.

